



Press Release

Cilian receives major grant for enzyme replacement therapy with Ciliate-Lipase

Münster, July 26th, 2023:

Cilian AG, a startup innovative biotechnology company has been granted 1.8 million Euros for the development of a new therapy for exocrine pancreatic insufficiency – recombinant pancreatic replacement enzymes from *Tetrahymena thermophila* (CILIP2). The grant was approved by the German Ministry of Research through its SME innovation program. Jointly with two research groups at the universities of Münster and Bochum (both in Germany) experienced in pancreas research, Cilian will continue the development and production of an oral preparation for the treatment of enzyme efficiency in pancreatic insufficiency.

Through this development it will be possible to scale up the production process and offer a biotechnology manufactured Ciliate-Lipase for the treatment of pancreatic insufficiency. This represents a significant breakthrough compared to medicines derived from pig pancreases from slaughterhouse being used today.

The focus of this research grant will be the comprehensive preclinical testing of Ciliate-Lipase for dose finding and toxicology. These *in vivo* studies and the development of new analytical methods and markers should build the basis for later regulatory approval.

Exocrine pancreatic insufficiency (EPI)

Exocrine pancreatic insufficiency (deficiency of pancreas enzyme production) exists when the pancreas produces digestive enzymes in insufficient quantity. EPI is usually the result of pancreatitis (inflammation of the pancreas) or pancreatic cancer. It is also a symptom of genetic diseases like mucoviscidosis or cystic fibrosis. It usually leads to massive indigestion resulting in weight loss, diarrhea, abdominal pain, loss of appetite, bloating and fatty stool. The incidence of pancreatitis in the Western world is estimated at 0.04% of the western population.

Today the only enzyme products available to treat EPI are pancreatin based products derived from pig slaughter waste. Regulatory authorities have raised major concerns with these products for their consistency and safety. This fact urgently necessitates the development of enzyme compounds that fulfil modern requirements for medicinal products.

About Cilian AG

Cilian AG was founded in 2001 by Dr. Marcus Hartmann and is a biotechnology company that develops and markets a novel expression system called CIBEX-System. The company uses an eukaryotic single cell micro-organisms called Ciliates for the production of enzymes, monoclonal antibodies and vaccines. At the same time the company uses this platform technology for the development of its own proprietary compound of EPI, Ciliate-Lipase.

For further information:

Cilian AG:

www.cilian.com

Dr. Marcus Hartmann,

CSO

Tel.: +49 251 6 20 310

hartmann@cilian.de